Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 AID-20 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

L-03 IGA-02 RSR-01 (ADP) W ----- 057258

R 250840Z JUL 73 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9116

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BMEP, KS

SUBJECT: KSEC SHIPYARD AT OKPO

REFS: A. STATE 143220, B. SEOUL 4552, C. STATE 136708 D. SEOUL 4208, E. SEOUL 0591

SUMMARY: CABLE DISCUSSES U.S. SOURCE PROCUREMENT FOR KESC SHIPYARD; REQUESTS INFORMATION ON U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED.

1. REF A'S CLARIFICATION OF REF C IS APPRECIATED, AND EMBASSY AGREES THAT ACTION RECOMMENDED REF C SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT APPROPRIATE TIME. SINCE EXIM BANK FINANCING REQUIRES USE OF U.S. GOODS AND SERVICES, HOWEVER, PROCUREMENT FROM NON-U.S.SUPPLIERS GENERLLY WOULD REQUIRE NEW FOREIGN FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS AND ROKG APPROVAL THEREOF. THIS WOULD SUBJECT PROJECT TO ADDITIONAL DELAY. PROJECT WAS ALREADY DELAYED FROM FEBRUARY WHEN, FOLLOWING EMBASSY'S FIRST CABLE (REF E) ON THIS OPPORTUNITY, NAMKOONG WAS INTERCEPTED BY MORGAN GUARANTY-EXIM BANK WHILE ON WAY TO LONDON TO ARRANGE U.K. LOAN FOR OKPO SHIPYARD. THEREFORE, U.S. SOURCE PROCUREMENT APPEARS TO BE IN NAMKOONG'S INTEREST, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSUMING U.S. FIRMS ABLE TO SUPPLY AT REASONABLY COMPETITIVE

PRICES. WE ASSUME KSEC WILL EXPECT RECEIVE QUOTATIONS FROM SEVERAL U.S. FIRMS, AND WOULD NOT COMMIT SELVES IMMEDIATELY.

- 2. WE PRESUME NAMKOONG AND KSEC PARTY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT \$72 MILLION LOAN PACKAGE CAN BE USED ONLY FOR U.S. ORIGIN GOODS AND SERVICES. IF ANY EXCEPTIONS POSSIBLE AND AUTHORIZED, PLEASE ADVISE.
- 3. OF ALL THE SHIPYARD VENTURES IN KOREA, KSEC HAS LEAST
 NEED FOR FOREIGN ENGINEERING BUT COMPANY HAS USED GERMAN
 CONSULTANTS IN PAST, HOWEVER, AND WOULD PREFER CONTINUE THIS
 RELATIONSHIP EXCEPT AS FORCED TO ACT OTHERWISE BY EXIM BANK
 REQUIREMENTS. WE AGREE THAT TURNKEY OPERATION IS DESIRABLE
 AND REITERATE THAT PARSONS AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED U.S.
 ENGINEERING FIRMS SHOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO GET THIS BUSINESS.
 NAMKOONG APPRECIATES FIRMS WHICH APPROACH HIM DIRECTLY. MR.
 RICHARD DITTMAR AT PARSONS LOS ANGELES (213-629-2484) AND
 MR. MILTON ROTE AT PARSONS HONOLULU OFFICE (847-2061) VISITED
 KSEC AFTER MACHINERY CONFERENCE IN EARLY JULY AND ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON PARSON' EFFORTS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH NAMKOONG.
 SUGGEST MPED CALL DITTMAR OR ROTE.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: WITH REFERENCE TO PARAS 2 AND 3 REF A, PLEASE CABLE COPY OF U.S. ENGINEERING COMPANY LIST PREPARED BY MARAD. ALSO PLEASE CABLE COPY OF SHIPYARD EQUIPMENT MANUFACTORERS LIST. THIS WILL ASSIST EMBOFF IN DISCUSSION WITH KSEC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN SEOUL NOW AND WITH NAMKOONG ON HIS RETURN. WHILE PRECISE SPECIFICATIONS DIFFER FOR EACH PROJECT, SEOUL'S 4208 (REF D) INCLUDES GENERAL LIST OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR ANY SHIPYARD PROJECT IN KOREA. WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW NOW IS NOT ONLY WHAT U.S. FIRMS ARE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH ITEMS (WHICH, AFTER ALL, CAN BE GUESSED AT FROM THOMAS' REGISTER) BUT ALSO WHICH ONES HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN OBTAINING EXPORT ORDERS NOW. SUCH INFORMATION WILL HELP US WORK TO MAINTAIN KSEC INTEREST, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE USE OF U.S. GOODS/SERVICES IN OTHER SHIPYARD PROJECTS. IN THIS CONNECTION. INFORMATION GIVEN ON CRANE AND PLATE CUTTER SUPPLIERS IS APPRECIATED AND EMBASSY WILL PASS TO KSEC. HARIR

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